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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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March 6, 2017

The Honorable Elisabeth DeVos
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5970

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I would like to bring to your attention the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) application for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) at the U.S. Department of Education. According to M-DCPS, this grant will be used to redesign three of its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focused schools, and to also help students in subject areas such as zoology, botany, cybersecurity, information technology.

According to M-DCPS, the funds provided by this grant will fund the creation of multiple new magnet programs in South Florida based on a curriculum focused in information technology. These programs will include business innovation and management; mobile application development; and design, animation, and gaming. Students will graduate from these programs with the skills necessary to start their own businesses, work in the gaming and movie industries, and develop innovative new apps. An additional zoology and botany based magnet school curriculum will be created that will engage students in conservation and environmental issues.

In their grant application, M-DCPS also describes the creation of a full magnet school focusing on an information technology and cybersecurity curriculum. This new magnet program will be designed to teach students to integrate scientific research and technology to analyze and propose solutions for local and international businesses, as well as to introduce them to foundational knowledge and skills in computer and network security.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant application. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress